

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith a Replacement Sheet that includes Fig. 7. It is respectfully requested that this sheet replace the originally filed sheet that included originally filed Fig. 7. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-25 are pending. Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 5, 11, 17 and 25.

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirschi (U.S. Patent No. 4,470,015).

Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirschi.

Claims 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirschi in view of Frahm (U.S. Patent No. 5,521,583).

Claims 13-15 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirschi in view of Bybee (U.S. Patent No. 6,696,947).

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirschi in view of Bybee and further in view of Frahm.

Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirschi in view of Bybee and further in view of Fearon (U.S. Patent No. 4,539,558).

These rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 7 and 13 were amended so that they now include the subject matter of claims 5, 11 and 13, respectively. The Examiner indicated that such claims would be allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowable. The remaining claims depend from one of allowable claims 1, 7 and 13 and therefore, they are allowable for at least the reasons claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of the claims in view of prior art are now moot.

III. Drawings

The drawings were objected to because the Examiner believes the boxes in Fig. 7 should be labeled to make them easier to read and understand more quickly. Accordingly, Applicant submits herewith a Replacement Sheet that includes Fig. 7 with the boxes labeled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits all pending claims, specifically, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-25, are in condition of allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (503) 796-2997 regarding any inquiry concerning this communication. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

Dated: _____

6/28/06

Pacwest Center Suite 1900
1211 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: 503-222-9981



Kevin T. LeMond
Reg. No. 35,933